



2003 Legislative Report **Achievements for the 2nd District**

**State
Representative**

Roger Bush

Serving the citizens of: Carbonado, Eatonville, Frederickson, Graham, Orting, Rainier, Spanaway, Yelm, and the Mt. Rainier area

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2003 Session most productive

In many ways, the 2003 legislative session and subsequent special sessions were historic in terms of both the challenges we faced and the work we accomplished. In fact, the 2003 legislative session may go down in state history as one of the most productive sessions ever.

The state faced many problems this year that seemed almost insurmountable when the session convened in January, but the Legislature managed the crisis effectively.

No-new-taxes budget

The greatest challenge we faced was a \$2.7 billion operating budget deficit. We closed the gap on this huge shortfall and balanced the budget without raising taxes or increasing future debt... and we did it while still maintaining funding levels for critical programs that serve the most vulnerable and needy of our state.

The Legislature managed the state's budget crisis the way the rest of us have to do. We set spending priorities and reduced spending where possible. By doing so, we have set a course for a solid financial recovery for our state.

We created more jobs!

The latest figures show that Washington's unemployment rate is 7.3 percent and Pierce County's rate is 7.4 percent. With job losses of more than 160,000 over the past three years, Republicans' top priority this year in the Legislature was to create new jobs and help people get back to work.

We passed a \$2.57 billion capital budget that will create more than 13,000 private construction jobs across Washington, while securing low interest rates to build much-needed projects in every corner of the state.

We approved a \$4.2 billion, 10-year transportation budget that will decrease Puget Sound congestion, improve our local economy and provide an additional 3,200 jobs annually.

In the final hours of the special session, we approved legislation aimed at keeping thousands of Boeing jobs in Washington.

Final budget quick facts

- ✓ No new taxes. Requires state government to live within its means.
- ✓ Home-care workers will receive a 75-cent-an-hour pay boost in October.
- ✓ Teachers in their first seven years will get a pay boost. By the second year of the budget, beginning teachers would make more than \$30,000 a year.
- ✓ State employees will be required to pay for 16 percent of the cost of their health insurance, a 2 percent increase.
- ✓ Colleges will be allowed to boost in-state undergraduate tuition by up to 7 percent in each of the next two academic years.
- ✓ The state-subsidized Basic Health Plan for the working poor will provide for 100,000 people, up from the governor's proposal of 60,000.
- ✓ The budget includes \$30 million more for class-size reduction than Gov. Locke requested, boosting the per-pupil grant to \$245 in the second year of the biennium.
- ✓ Funded parks and provided for county health departments.
- ✓ The state's \$400 million windfall from the new federal tax-relief bill will be kept unspent, as a hedge against the likely revenue downturn later this year.

Rep. Roger Bush

A significant portion of the tax dollars you pay goes to Olympia. I worked to make sure your hard-working tax dollars come back home to the 2nd District.

Millions of dollars returned to 2nd District

As a member of the House Capital Budget Committee, I successfully shepherded more than \$63 million for projects important to the 2nd District that will improve our schools and community colleges, expand recreational and sporting opportunities, increase public safety, and provide for a better quality of life in our neighborhoods. When the budget was finalized, I made sure those projects were included in it.



Road construction ahead!

Get ready for some major local road construction detours soon!

Road projects totaling \$48.9 million for the 2nd District were included in a \$4.2 billion, 10-year transportation budget approved by the Legislature this year.

Most significant is funding for a \$20 million project that will add new lanes on a very congested stretch of State Route 161 (Meridian Street) between South Hill and Graham. I am particularly gratified to see the final construction phase of this project funded.

For seven years, and in spite of several setbacks, I have worked to secure funding for each phase of this project, from the preliminary engineering phase to the right-of-way purchases. At long last, the actual construction will begin! This will greatly enhance safety and mobility along that corridor.

LOCAL CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS:

• Art Crate Soccer Field - Bethel School District	\$500,000
• Bates Technical College: LRC/Vocational	\$1,796,206
• Bates-Clover Park Equipment Improvements	\$3,000,000
• Boys and Girls Clubs of Pierce County	\$187,500
• Boys and Girls Clubs of Thurston County	\$102,175
• Buckley to South Prairie Foothills Trail	\$750,000
• Clover Park Technical College	\$4,583,308
• Eatonville City Projects	\$150,000
• Frontier Park	\$165,000
• Graham Fire District Emergency Services Center	\$150,000
• Nisqually-Mashel state park land acquisition	\$1,000,000
• Orting Soldier's Home	\$750,000
• Orting School District Safety Bridge Study	\$250,000
• Pacific Peaks Girl Scouts Council	\$400,000
• Pierce College - Ft. Steilacoom - Science/Tech	\$190,000
• Pierce College - Ft. Steilacoom - Childcare Center ...	\$500,000
• Pierce College - Puyallup - Arts/Health	\$150,000
• Pierce College - Puyallup - Expansion	\$23,374,774
• Rainier Historical Society -Roofing project	\$20,000
• South Hill Community Park	\$250,000
• Sprinker Skate Park	\$275,000
• Tacoma Community College: Portable Buildings ...	\$2,622,000
• Tacoma Community College: Renovation	\$4,988,000
• Tacoma Community College: Science Building	\$2,379,000
• Tacoma Community College: Tech. Center	\$14,531,900
• Yelm Community Center	\$400,000
Total	\$63,464,863

2nd District Projects - transportation budget

• SR 161/234th Street to 204th Street E	\$6,600,000
• SR 161/204th Street to 176th Street	\$5,500,000
• SR 704 - Crossbase Highway	\$6,200,000
• I-5/Nisqually River bridge to Ft. Lewis Rd	\$2,672,000
• I-5/McCallister Creek culvert and tide gates	\$199,000
• I-5 Intelligent transportation system	\$500,000
• SR 7/Elbe railroad crossing to Alder	\$174,000
• SR 7/SR 507 to SR 512 - safety project	\$1,000
• SR 7/SR 507 to SR 512 - safety project	\$9,480,000
• SR 161/Ohop Valley Road/Ski Park Road	\$244,000
• SR 161/Clear Lake S. to 255th Street E.	\$2,842,000
• SR 161/255th Street E. to 176th Street E	\$3,099,000
• SR 161/204th Street to 176th Street	\$2,976,000
• SR 161/176th Street to SR 512 - paving	\$3,504,000
• SR 162/Voights Creek Bridge	\$880,000
• SR 162/Voights Creek - safety project	\$1,421,000
• SR 165/Carbon River bridge - wall repair	\$162,000
• SR 410/Crystal Mtn. Blvd. to Chinook Pass	\$785,000
• SR 507/Nisqually River Bridge	\$386,000
• SR 507/Roy to SR 7 - paving	\$163,000
• SR 507/Roy Wye - rechannelization	\$165,000
• SR 507/E. Gate Road to 208th Street E	\$669,000
• SR 702/40th Ave S./Allen Road - safety	\$55,000
Total	\$48,977,000

2003 Legislative Report

Keeping our communities safe

This year, we took important steps toward improving public safety.

SUPREME COURT RULINGS: The Legislature passed two bills responding to state Supreme Court rulings. One outlaws filming up someone's skirt without consent. The other allows prosecutors to file second-degree murder charges in assault cases that result in death.

LOCAL OPTION TAXES: The House approved an amendment I co-sponsored that dedicates one-third of local option tax increases to public safety purposes. The amendment was offered to a bill that would allow counties to impose a new local sales and use tax of up to 0.3 percent *only* if local voters approve it.

Unemployment insurance reform protects jobs

Within 24 hours of the start of the second special session, we passed unemployment insurance reform supported by a broad coalition of labor, business and agricultural groups. These reforms will help businesses across the state and will protect the jobs those businesses provide.

Landing the Boeing 7E7

If Boeing builds the 7E7 in Washington, it will provide thousands of new jobs in our region. However, if Boeing leaves our state, it will mean millions in lost revenues that help to pay for schools, colleges, teachers, health care, public safety and more. The ramifications to our economy would be devastating in terms of businesses closing and jobs lost. Recognizing this, the Legislature approved tax breaks for Boeing that will only be implemented if it decides to build the 7E7 in Washington. The tax incentive package gives Boeing a major reason to keep jobs in Washington.

Saving tax dollars in workers' compensation

The Legislature also passed a new law setting up a two-year time limit for filing job-related hearing-loss claims. That bill is expected to save the state workers' compensation insurance fund \$200 million in future claims.



Rep. Roger Bush with students from Yelm High School.

Water, water everywhere!

In what has been the most significant water management reform action in nearly 40 years, the Legislature passed several bills protecting water rights, providing for watershed planning, and ensuring that local communities, farmers and wildlife have adequate water resources.

Seniors get the Rx help they need

The Legislature finally came through with a bill to help low-income seniors with the costs of their prescription drugs. The state will now share its bulk purchasing power with those over 50 or disabled whose annual income is less than \$27,000. It will also save money by pooling agency purchases and by generating a list of preferred drugs.

Rep. Bush's bills passed

Two of my prime-sponsored bills made it through both the House and Senate this year and were signed into law.

HB 1106 - Election integrity: Allows the secretary of state or the Elections Division of his office to make unannounced visits to county election offices to observe handling, processing, counting or tabulation of ballots. This builds upon several other election reform bills that I have successfully sponsored over the past few years.

HB 1074: - Impound release: Allows police to release an impounded commercial vehicle to the owner, if he or she is not the driver under arrest. This prevents innocent people from being victimized by a law that was intended to punish wrong-doers.

State Representative
Roger Bush

Committees:

Capital Budget
Rules
Technology, Telecommunications
& Energy
Joint Select Committee on
Veterans' & Military Affairs
Joint Select Committee on
Economic Development &
International Affairs

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The 2003 Session: Protecting taxpayers, providing jobs, preserving public trust

Dear friends,

We entered the 2003 legislative session January 13 with a \$2.7 billion budget shortfall grabbing most of the headlines.

Although the budget gained most of the attention, I felt like many of you that the real crisis in Washington is the condition of our economy. Our state has lost too many jobs and employers, due to a combination of factors that the Legislature should be solving: excessive government regulations, widespread traffic congestion, and government's adversarial attitude toward hard-working people and the businesses that keep our economy going.

My priorities coming into this session included: protecting taxpayers by making government live within its means, finding ways to create new economic opportunities for our citizens that would provide jobs, and working for a smaller, less intrusive government that would serve our citizens, not dictate to them.

This newsletter provides a brief glimpse of the successful 2003 legislative session. I invite you to contact me with your questions, comments and ideas. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you!

Sincerely,



Roger Bush, State Representative

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